

of addressable systems. The Government of India policy of promoting DTH and introduction of CAS in selected areas of 4 metro cities of Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai and Chennai is a step in the direction of introducing addressability.

Posts lying vacant in Sambalpur Doordarshan Kendra

†1706. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the present number of the employees in the Sambalpur Doordarshan Kendra is even one fourth less than the sanctioned strength and the posts of 22 employees are lying vacant there, resulting in non-telecasting of the regional news bulletin itself;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the action being taken to fill these vacancies;

(c) by when the recruitment of the employees is likely to be made for the smooth functioning of Sambalpur Doordarshan Kendra; and

(d) the steps being taken for upgradation of transmitters and other facilities there?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) No, Sir. The total sanctioned strength at DDK, Sambalpur in different cadres is 70. Out of these, 51 posts are presently filled up. There is no Regional News Unit at the Kendra. However, the Regional news bulletin is telecast from DDK, Bhubaneswar and all its bulletins are relayed by DDK, Sambalpur.

(b) and (c) Filling up and occurrence of vacancies is a continuous process. Efforts are being made to fill up posts, wherever possible, through redeployment of staff, promotions.

(d) DDI HPT (1KW) at Sambalpur set up in 1978, and DD 2 (News), set up in 1995, were upgraded to HPTs (10 KW) in 2001 with new 150 M Tower. Facilities at Studio, Sambalpur have also been augmented from time to time. Augmentation of facilities at Studio Centres is a continuous process.

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.